

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services to which a subscriber having a subscription contract accesses over a computer network in order to obtain information on an electronic article, comprising:

meta-data described by definitions that each publisher providing said electronic article defines differently;

meta-data loading means for absorbing said different definitions and loading each of said meta-data;

a database established by storing data loaded by said meta-data loading means;

search means for searching through said database;

link information display means for displaying link information to said electronic article indicated by said meta-data; and

access means for accessing to said indicated electronic article.

2. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1 wherein said meta-data is an article bibliography or an article subscriber of said

electronic article and link information indicating a place where its original article is placed electronically.

3. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1, further comprising a subscription master in which subscriber's additional information is stored wherein said search means comprises access right authorization means for authorizing a subscriber's access right based on information from said subscription master.

4. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 3, said search means further comprising billing means for billing a subscriber based on information from said subscription master when a search is executed.

5. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1 wherein said meta-data is described by using the Generalized Markup Language or Extensible Mark-up Language.

6. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1 wherein said meta-data is provided by each of said publishers over said computer network or through an auxiliary memory medium.

7. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services to which a subscriber having a subscription contract accesses over a computer network in order to obtain information on an electronic article, comprising the steps of

loading each of said meta-data described by definitions that each publisher providing said electronic article defines differently by absorbing said different definitions;

storing data loaded by said meta-data loading step in a database;

providing search means for searching through said database; and

obtaining said electronic article based on link information indicated by said meta-data.

8. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7 wherein said meta-data is an article bibliography or an article subscriber of said electronic article and link information indicating a place where its original article is placed electronically.

9. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7, further comprising the step of storing subscriber's additional information in a subscription master, wherein said search means comprises access right authorization means for authorizing a

subscriber's access right based on information from said subscription master.

10. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 9, said search means further comprising billing means for billing a subscriber based on information from said subscription master when a search is executed.

11. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7 wherein said meta-data is described by using the Generalized Markup Language or Extensible Mark-up Language.

12. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7 wherein said meta-data is provided by each of said publishers over said computer network or through an auxiliary memory medium.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for electronic article search and supply services to which a subscriber having a subscription contract accesses over a computer network in order to obtain information on an electronic article, comprising:

loading meta-data for each of a plurality of articles, wherein said plurality of articles are from different publishers and wherein a publisher from said different publishers describes definitions for meta-data of an article from said plurality of articles differently from another publisher from said different publishers;

interpreting the differences in said definitions for the meta-data;

merging said loaded meta-data into a database;

searching through said merged meta-data based on a query from said subscriber; and

obtaining said electronic article based on link information indicated by said meta-data.

14. (Previously Presented) The method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 13, wherein said publisher of said article describes a definition of a field of said loaded meta-data for said article differently from said another publisher.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 13, wherein said publisher provided more meta-data definitions for said article than said another publisher.

16. (Previously Presented) The method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 13, wherein said publisher named a category of meta-data for said article differently than said another publisher.

17. (Previously Presented) The method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 13, wherein description of meta-data definitions for said article provided by

said publisher is of a higher quality than description of meta-data definitions from said another publisher.

18. (Previously Presented) The method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 13, wherein said publisher defined a meta-tag of said meta-data for said article differently from said another publisher.